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## **Syracuse VA Medical Center plans job fair for vets**

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By [James T. Mulder / The Post-Standard](#) The Post-Standard

Syracuse, N.Y. -- The [Syracuse VA Medical Center](#) will hold a job fair for veterans 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the center's auditorium.

More than 25 employers with job openings in manufacturing, health care, education, retail and government will participate.

This will be the first time the medical center has sponsored a job fair.

"Just like an antibiotic can get you well, a good job can put you on the right footing," said Gordon Sclar, a spokesman for the center. "Jobs help prevent homelessness and other ills."

The unemployment rate among veterans, particularly veterans with disabilities, is higher than it is among the general population, said Donna Bejian, a vocational rehabilitation counselor at the VA.

After leaving the military, many veterans feel useless, she said. "They have a patient identity instead of a worker identity," Bejian said. "Giving them a job restores their self esteem."

The fair is open to all veterans, including those who left the military many years ago, but recently lost their jobs during the economic downturn, Sclar said.

Veterans who attend should bring a resume and their discharge papers.